



News Release

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State Employees Challenged to Support 2005 Charitable Fund Drive

"Bee Charitable" includes monetary and organ donations

(Salt Lake City, UT) – Utah state employees remain committed to the Utah State Employees' Charitable Fund and their communities by donating each year a portion of their salaries to charities that serve our communities. The theme of this year's Annual Charitable Fund campaign is "Bee Charitable. Don't Hide in the Hive," which begins October 14 and runs through November 19.

In 2004, state employees donated \$477,167 to charities of their choice through the Charitable Fund. That's an increase of more than \$100,000 from 1999. This year more than twenty thousand state employees are being challenged to take part in the campaign.

"While we recognize that many of our employees contribute to the community through volunteer service efforts and private donations, we also believe it is important to provide all state employees this convenient way to support one or numerous charitable causes of their choice," said Gov. Olene S. Walker.

The Fund was founded more than 49 years ago and remains a fund where:

- State employees can make donations without being solicited by numerous agencies throughout the year.
- State employees can designate gifts to any of the listed agencies or groups listed and specify the amount to go to that group.
- Every penny donated is paid to the specific organization chosen by the employee.
- The cost of administering the fund is paid from interest earned on the donations.
- The program provides a safe and convenient way to contribute to 452 worthy charitable organizations that meet stringent federal and state requirements.
- Donations to approved charities are tax deductible through payroll deduction or by making a one-time contribution.

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“We have a strong legacy of generous giving by the State’s workforce to build on,” said Dr. Scott D. Williams, Chair of the 2005 State Employees’ Charitable Fund Campaign and Executive Director of the Utah Department of Health. “In addition to the opportunity we have to contribute to worthy charities, I am pleased to announce that we will also be conducting a simultaneous organ donation pledge drive with the charitable fund drive this year. This is another form of meaningful giving that can literally save lives.” Nearly 8000 people in the United States die each year waiting for an organ transplant. Donor applications will be included in the campaign packets providing the opportunity for state employees to become organ donors.

“Utah’s motto of ‘industry’ is derived from the beehive, and state employees exemplify this value as do many of the Utah charities we have an opportunity to support,” said Dr. Williams. “It is only natural that we work together to enhance the difference we can make in the lives of the people of Utah. Here at the UDOH we are in the business of prevention and many of these worthy groups help prevent a variety of problems in our communities.”

The Governor appoints a board of directors to govern the Charitable Fund. Board members serve in a volunteer position to conduct the annual campaign. Each year, a state agency director is also appointed by the Governor to chair the campaign drive.

More information on the program, including a list of approved charities, is available on the Utah State Employees’ Charitable Fund Web site at www.usecf.state.ut.us

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.